

Minutes of January 9th Meeting of Allentown EAC

EAC members present: Tinku Khanwalkar, Mike Renneisen, David Keschl, Joseph Hoffman

City Official Present: Lindsay Taylor

Non-EAC member present: Janet Keschl

The minutes of the November EAC meeting were duly approved.

Tinku Khanwalkar made a motion to approve a letter to the Mayor in substantially the form attached. The motion was seconded by Joe Hoffman and **APPROVED**.

Lindsay Taylor described the current stream buffer plan. The City has been working on eliminating invasive plants and then will plant trees and shrubs along the stream bank. Mowing will continue once per year until the end of 2017. The City will also spray pre- and post- emergent weeds and then spot spray in summer. Lindsay Taylor will send a copy of the plan to the EAC.

Lindsay Taylor also provided the following updates on current projects:

- The City is at a pre-proposal stage for Jordan Creek Greenway. About 15 firms attended the meeting. A steering committee is to be formed. The Allentown EAC will be a member of the steering committee.
- The City checked with the Lehigh County Conservation District on the Skate Park in Jordan Park. The project will not cause much additional stormwater to Jordan Creek. It is less than an acre, so the Conservation District need not be involved. The steering committee will review design of the park, which will include review of green infrastructure. The design will be available in about 2 months. The EAC is a member of the steering committee.
- Public Works is leading an effort on additional green infrastructure
- Lindsay Taylor has been looking at Lancaster's green infrastructure plan and can discuss at a future EAC meeting.
- The Valania Park master plan is being completed in-house. Steering committee will begin meeting in February. The EAC is a member of the steering committee.
- The National Recreational Parks Association and American Planning Association has an urban parks campaign. Lindsay Taylor is partnering with Lehigh County Conservation District and Wildlands Conservancy in applying for a grant for Franklin Park. Tinku Khanwalkar moved that the EAC support this grant application. The motion was seconded by Joseph Hoffman and **APPROVED**.
- Stevens Park is opening the spring. Renovations are almost complete. The park has largely been designed by residents in the area. Lindsay pointed out that programming in the park will

enhance security and asked whether the EAC would be willing to sponsor a program on rain barrels.

Joseph Hoffman agreed to remain the EAC liaison with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

David Keshl reported that at the last City Council meeting there were a lot of hand outs on stormwater flow in the City.

The following EAC goals for 2016 were discussed.

- Stream Buffers –Joseph Hoffman to lead
- Stormwater – Marissa to lead with assistance from Mike
- Reports to City Council – David Keschl to lead with assistance from Mike
- Invasive plants – this is being addressed through the EAC liaison with the Department of Parks and Recreation and does not need to be an independent goal
- Bird Strikes – Mike Renneisen will contact JB Riley to confirm that this is being addressed in building design plans.

The leads noted above are to develop EAC action items related to their areas.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attachment 1

January 9, 2017

Re: Allentown EAC

Dear Mayor Pawlowski,

First, let us wish you a very happy new year. The Allentown EAC looks forward to continuing to work with the City on important environmental matters.

Second, we would like to thank you for your commitment to ensure that we have a City representative at our meetings. For the Allentown EAC to fulfill its advisory role, it is critical for us to remain informed of important environmental initiatives being undertaken by the City and to be involved early in providing input on important environmental issues facing the City. We are hopeful that the increased presence of City representatives at our meetings will help facilitate the needed discussions. Further, we request the City to include an environmental tab on its web page where interested citizens can obtain more information on environmental initiatives and issues, as well as the Allentown EAC's actions on those matters.

Once again, we thank you for working with us in the past and we look forward to increased communications with the City going forward.

Sincerely,

The Allentown EAC

cc: Lindsay Taylor
Craig Messinger